

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SUMMARY OF LIVESTOCK STATISTICS. MARCH 1951.

GENERAL. Particulars for the year ended March 1951, possibly subject to slight revision, are shown in the following paragraphs with those for 1950 in parentheses. It will be seen that sheep flocks have increased by 688,072 while cattle herds have decreased by 31,340 (a grazing equivalent of about 250,000 sheep). Contributing factors have been:- More sheep have been imported from other States and less exported, there has been a greater natural increase and decreased numbers have been slaughtered while exactly the opposite applies to cattle.

SHEEP. 10,165,098 (9,477,026) an increase of 688,072 on the previous year and of 3,378,560 on the 6,786,538 for the drought year 1946, and only 205,467 less than the record pre-drought figure of 10,370,565 for 1943. There were 4,776,648 (4,698,604) breeding and 579,113 (527,384) other ewes; 2,510,132 (2,193,357) wethers; 133,361 (132,822) rams and 2,165,844 (1,924,859) lambs.

LAMBING 1950. 4,331,858 (4,278,171) ewes were mated and 3,189,609 (3,040,458) lambs were marked, giving a lambing percentage of 73.63 (71.07). The record number of lambs marked was 3,322,810 in 1943 and the record percentage was 78.68 in 1917.

LAMBING 1951. 4,572,109 (4,474,921) ewes were reported to have been mated or intended to be mated for lambing during 1951 (1950), 3,551,048 (3,472,639) to merino, corriedale or polwarth rams and 1,021,061 (1,002,282) to rams of other breeds.

WOOL CLIP. 10,737,238 (10,095,905) sheep and lambs were reported to have been shorn, the total clip including crutchings etc. being 103,085,617 (92,556,940) lbs. The average fleece for sheep and lambs combined was 9.60 (9.17) lbs. and for sheep only 10.79 (10.61) lbs. The total wool production would include approximately another 11,000,000 (14,150,549) lbs. for wool fellmongered and on skins for export, making a total wool production of 114,085,617 (106,707,489) lbs. The record wool production was 115,464,000 lbs. in 1943-44. The wool production is valued at approximately £61,000,000 (£25,685,381) compared with a pre-war average of £4,000,000. The average price for greasy wool was 129.16d. (57.77d) compared with the pre-war average of approximately 12d. and the earlier extremes of 22.97d. in 1924-25 and 6.82d. in 1930-31.

CATTLE. All kinds 432,801 (464,141) decrease 31,340 on the record total of the previous year. Dairying cows 183,979 (203,166) were classified as follows - in milk 105,854 (118,263) dry 54,453 (56,572) and springing heifers 23,672 (28,331). Other cattle included other dairy heifers 18,718 (22,496) dairy calves 33,476 (37,358) dairy bulls 7,603 (8,328) beef cows and heifers 93,529 (95,288) beef calves 39,323 (46,188) beef bulls 3,632 (3,864) and other beef cattle 52,541 (47,453) Total dairying cattle 243,776 (271,348) beef cattle 189,025 (192,793).

DAIRY PRODUCTION. Provisional figures for the year ended June, 1951 are as follows: Butter 17,450,000 (19,625,923) lbs., cheese 19,950,000 (23,714,869) lbs. and Bacon and Ham 6,800,000 (7,430,210) lbs. Grand total milk production was estimated to be 82,500,000 (89,400,000) gallons compared with the record of 93,500,000 in 1946-47. During recent years the average milk production per cow in milk and dry has been over 500 gallons. The production of milk, and of dairy products, was below the average of recent years.

HORSES. 71,322 (82,617) of which foals were 3,056 (3,492) draught 35,036 (45,183) and other 33,230 (33,942). The number of horses is only about 35% of the number (200,870) in 1936 and is the lowest number since 1866. The maximum number was 283,641 in 1913.

PIGS. 67,943 (69,523) of which there were 1,894 (1,870) boars, 10,342 (9,858) breeding sows, all other 55,707 (57,795). The number of pigs is the lowest since 1937. The maximum number was 190,068 in 1940, and it was 186,007 only 7 years ago.

GOYDER'S LINE AND LIVESTOCK. Outside Goyder's Line there were 3,005,668 (2,682,658) sheep, 148,760 (147,925) cattle and 21,024 (23,020) horses while inside there were 7,159,430 (6,794,368) sheep, 284,041 (316,216) cattle and 50,298 (59,597) horses. During the last 20 years there have been only slight variations in the percentages of livestock outside and inside the line. The percentages outside for 1951 were sheep 29.57 (28.30) cattle, 34.37 (31.87) horses 29.48 (27.86).

SLAUGHTERINGS. The increased slaughterings of cattle and decreased slaughterings of sheep can be seen from the following table. Pig slaughterings remained fairly constant.

	Cattle, Calves	Sheep, Lambs	Pigs
Year 1949	199,782	2,316,619	115,574
1950	217,688	2,022,071	110,933
Jan. - June, 1950	108,500	880,000	54,500
1951	112,500	765,000	56,000

MORTALITY LOSSES, ETC. The reported losses from drought and all other causes were:- Sheep 491,723 (511,506) cattle 11,137 (13,406) Horses 3,257 (3,897) and Pigs 3,803 (3,692).

LIVESTOCK AS AT MARCH 31st 1951 COMPARED WITH MARCH 31st 1950.

DIVISION	SHEEP		CATTLE		HORSES	PIGS
	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1951
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central	2,161,211	2,018,438	138,163	153,484	22,189	33,309
Lower North	1,602,241	1,483,223	29,431	32,785	9,280	14,714
Upper North	1,025,784	978,381	16,945	18,506	5,526	3,140
South Eastern	1,843,643	1,832,139	92,456	103,697	7,489	3,073
Western	1,648,966	1,482,964	13,775	14,058	10,767	5,913
Murray Mallee	940,302	871,057	23,581	26,143	7,518	7,791
Total Counties	9,222,147	8,666,202	314,351	348,673	62,769	67,940
Outside Counties	942,951	810,824	118,450	115,468	8,553	3
Total State	10,165,098	9,477,026	432,801	464,141	71,322	67,943
Increase	688,072	111,313	-31,340	3,055	-11,295	-1,580

WOOL CLIP

DIVISION	WOOL			AVER. WEIGHT PER FLEECE		
	1951	1950	Increase	1951	1950	Increase
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs	lbs	lbs.
Central	20,839,585	20,075,378	764,207	9.21	8.81	0.40
Lower North	17,615,743	15,861,340	1,754,403	10.22	9.71	0.51
Upper North	11,987,880	9,782,997	2,204,883	10.59	10.27	0.32
South Eastern	16,712,170	17,387,064	- 674,894	8.27	8.44	-0.17
Western	15,859,276	12,988,083	2,871,193	9.25	8.46	0.79
Murray Mallee	9,714,908	8,729,592	985,316	9.75	9.43	0.32
Total Counties	92,729,562	84,824,454	7,905,108	9.41	9.04	0.37
Outside Counties	10,356,055	7,732,486	2,623,569	11.72	10.86	0.86
Total State	103,085,617	92,556,940	10,528,677	9.60	9.17	0.43